

your actions in the aid to federal officers, who can no longer provide financial support to their families because of injury or death resultant from tragedies occurring in their work. The Act will relieve much of the stress which federal law enforcement officers' families deal with because a brave officer has lost his or her life or become disabled in the line of duty.

I understand that you acted immediately upon learning of the sad loss of federal officers at Ruby Ridge. You have done a great service for our federal law enforcement officers and their families. I am sure this will go a long way toward boosting the morale of all agents.

I am sure that I speak for the thousands of federal law enforcement officers and their dependents in thanking you for the sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,

J. MICHAEL DALY,
National President.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
September 18, 1996.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SPECTER: On behalf of the over 12,000 members of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), the largest association representing Federal criminal investigators in the nation, I am pleased to inform you that we fully support S. 1243, the "Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act of 1966." I also want to thank you for proposing this fine piece of legislation.

As you may already know, many states and local municipalities currently have legislation which ensures that the dependents of local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty receive assistance towards education or job training. Also, many local police agencies provide for the continuing education of survivors under the same circumstances. None of this exists at the Federal level. S. 1234 will correct this oversight regarding Federal law enforcement officers.

If you or your staff wish to contact me please call 212-637-6543.

Very truly yours,

VICTOR OBOYSKI,
National President.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank my colleague from Georgia for waiting.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. COVERDELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. COVERDELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DATE RAPE DRUGS

Mr. COVERDELL. Madam President, there are a number of items that are still pending before the 104th Congress, one of which is legislation that could combat the surge of what is characterized as date rape drugs in the United States.

I have been working on this matter for the better part of a year. This scourge is growing in its use, particularly in the Southwest and East—Louisiana, Texas, Florida. It is an evil threat to the young people of America.

The legislation that has been winding its way through this 104th Congress makes the use of this drug or any drug as a weapon a Federal crime. With the help of Senator HATCH, it was expanded to create penalties for possession or distribution of this type drug. It ultimately came back to us in the House bill which included minimum sentencing, and the other side of the aisle took exception to that. But over the last several days, in working together, it appears that we are about to come to terms on it, and, in fact, this piece of legislation will become law. It is very important.

This is a weapon that cannot be seen, obviously cannot be heard. You cannot taste it. You cannot smell it. So the unsuspecting victim is subjected to a period for which they lose consciousness and memory, which makes it even more difficult for prosecutors to pursue the case.

I think by moving in swiftly, we are putting people on notice, we are warning potential victims, and we are setting the stage for prosecutors to take charge of anybody who would use this new drug in such an evil way.

I am standing here today encouraging all of those who are dealing with the remainder of these negotiations to get on with it and certify that, indeed, this becomes the law of the land.

OMNIBUS PARKS LEGISLATION

Mr. COVERDELL. Madam President, the Senate has in its possession the House-passed omnibus parks bill, and everybody within the sound of my voice in this Chamber has heard about the parks bill. I am very hopeful we can bring this legislation to a successful conclusion.

There are two very important features that affect our State. One is making a heritage trail out of a 150-year-old canal built in Augusta to provide power to the textile industry of that era. It is still providing power, and it is a beautiful stretch of unspoiled land that is a national heritage and a national treasure, and legislating its protection and development in such a way to enhance it is exceedingly important to that region of our State and that city of our State.

Further, it deals with Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Highway, which has been in contention for a long time and is something which must be resolved in order to deal with issues in the northeastern or northwestern part of our State.

So I guess I am just saying, here is another Senator who has not left Washington and will stay here until we put the omnibus parks bill to bed, hopefully successfully, because, as we have all said, it affects so many of our States in the Union. It is something we really need to get done.

FAREWELL TO SENATOR SAM NUNN

Mr. COVERDELL. In closing, Madam President, I once again bid farewell to one of the outstanding Members of this Senate, and that is my colleague from Georgia, Senator SAM NUNN. We are from different parties, different sides of the aisle. We have known each other as Georgia citizens for well over a quarter century.

I think he has made an exemplary contribution to his State and to his Nation. I believe he will be missed, and the authority that he brings to issues with regard to national defense and the security of our Nation will long be remembered in this Senate. I bid him adieu and safe journeys wherever his life takes him. I know we will be able to reach out and call on him on issues of national importance in the days to come. Even though he will be accessible in that way, I know this Senate is going to greatly miss the wisdom and wise ways of my colleague from Georgia, Senator SAM NUNN.

Madam President, I yield back whatever of the 10 minutes I may have.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COVERDELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, is the Senate now in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it is.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business for as much time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, as we end this legislative session, I come to the floor to say a word about those who are leaving this Congress and also to talk about a couple of pieces of unfinished business.

SALUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, other colleagues have come to the floor to discuss the departure of those with whom we have served who are leaving this Congress. In the Senate, we will see Senator BILL BRADLEY leaving the Senate, Senator HANK BROWN, Senator BILL COHEN, Senator JAMES EXON, Senator MARK HATFIELD, Senator HOWELL HEFLIN, Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM, Senator SAM NUNN, Senator CLAIBORNE PELL, Senator DAVID PRYOR, Senator PAUL SIMON, and Senator ALAN SIMPSON.

When you read that list, it is quite a substantial list of experience that the